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The City of Beverly Hills Hosted Celebrations for Special Olympians from Monaco and Gibraltar

Beverly Hills, Calif. – The 2015 Special Olympics World Games kicked off with an Opening Ceremony at the L.A. Coliseum on Saturday, July 25. An impressive 6,500 athletes and 3,000 coaches representing 165 countries, along with 30,000 volunteers and hundreds of thousands of spectators anticipated to attend the Games this week, make the Special Olympics World Games the single biggest sporting event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympics. As Host Town to Special Olympians from Monaco and Gibraltar, the City of Beverly Hills was honored to welcome the athletes from these two countries and provide them with a memorable three-day experience of hosted celebrations. “We were honored to welcome these athletes to our city and acknowledge their amazing and inspiring accomplishments and show them a great time,” said Mayor Julian Gold, M.D.

Host Town activities included breakfasts and dinners and the Beverly Hilton Hotel, training at the Beverly Hills High School athletic fields, lunch at the Beverly Hills Fire Station, Torch Run Ceremony with Mayor Julian Gold and Beverly Hills Police Department and other law enforcement officials, picnic and games at Roxbury Park, lunch and shopping in Beverly Hills and Westfield Century City, concert at Beverly Canon Gardens, dinner at the Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts and a huge send-off celebration at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. (Photos from the events provided.)

The City of Beverly Hills and supporting sponsors’ monetary contributions and in-kind donations of over \$75,000 made it possible to hold these events for the athletes. Sponsors are as follows:

- **PLATINUM:** City of Beverly Hills; Joan and Arnold Seidel; The Beverly Hilton; Wanda Beverly Hills Properties, LLC.
- **GOLD:** Rotary Club of Beverly Hills; Hon. Lili and Jon Bosse; Geary’s Beverly Hills
- **SILVER:** Keenan Wolen; Beverly Hills Weekly; The Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts; The Paley Center for Media; Beverly Hills Firefighter Association; Beverly Hills Fire Department; Beverly Hills Police Department; Beverly Hills Police Officers Association; Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau; Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce
- **BRONZE:** Gail and Lee Silver; Allan Alexander; Tom Holliday; Mary Ann Weisberg; Hon. Julian and Michele Gold; Hilton & Hyland

- CHAMPION: Jeff Horn; Coca Cola; Westfield Century City; 90H20; Whole Food Market; Let's Have a Cart Party; Wally's Beverly Hills; Nespresso USA; Giacomino Drago; Montage Beverly Hills; Beverly Hills Market

Co-chairs Susan Berk and Alissa Roston along with their Host Town Committee put in countless volunteer hours to ensure the City of Beverly Hills Host Town Program was successful and the athletes felt celebrated. "We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a meaningful event. We thank the City of Beverly Hills and all our sponsors for making it possible to welcome these athletes in a significant way," said Alissa Roston. Host Town Committee members are: Allan Alexander, Teri Angel, Greg Barton, Ori Blumenfeld, Cindy Braun, David Truly, Claire Delacruz Zoe, Simone Friedman, Kurt Haefs, Ralph Mundell, Arnold Seidel, Alex Stettinski, Dean Viana, Steve Zoet, Aram Chobanian, Jane Siegal, Linda Segal, Janet Rofoa, Myra Lurie, Julie Wagner, Flora Zomoradi, Sue Cameron, Brad Meyerowitz, Michele Gold and Sharona Nazarian."

LA2015 will feature 25 sports competitions – which are FREE and open to the public to attend – at venues throughout Los Angeles. Fans create an atmosphere the athletes crave to excel in competition. Make a difference and be a FAN IN THE STANDS! For competition schedule and information about the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles-2015, visit www.specialolympics.org/los-angeles-2015.

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Left to right: Beverly Hills Firefighters' Association hosts luncheon for athletes from Gibraltar and Monaco. Pictured: Councilmember Lili Bosse, Host Town Co-chair Susan Berk and Alissa Roston, Recreation and Parks Director Steve Zoet, Gibraltar athlete Nicholas PayAs, City Manager Mahdi Aluzri, volunteer Arnold Seidel, Human Services Commission Chair Ori Blumenfeld, Recreation and Park Commission Chair Simone Friedman, Mayor Julian Gold, M.D., Gibraltar Coach Lars Vilheim Thomas Johannson.



Gibraltar athlete with Beverly Hills Mayor Julian Gold, M.D.



Gibraltar and Monaco athletes enjoy Beverly Hills Concert on Canon.



(Both Photos): Host Town Beverly Hills welcomes Special Olympians from Gibraltar and Monaco. Athletes from Gibraltar and Monaco, along with Mayor Julian Gold, M.D. and other City officials, Host Town co-chairs Susan Berk and Alissa Roston with their Host Town Committee, Beverly Hills Firefighters' Association, Beverly Hills Police Department, Special Olympics coaches and officials gather at the Beverly Hills Fire Station for a luncheon and Torch Run Ceremony.



Beverly Hills Mayor Julian Gold, M.D. and other City officials, Host Town co-chairs Susan Berk and Alissa Roston, President of Beverly Hilton Hotel Ted Kahn give a warm send-off to athletes from Gibraltar and Monaco at a celebration at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.